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Officers and Soldiers of the Artillery and of the Third Brigade.

The apparent pause in the operations of the enemy against this place, affords an opportunity to publicly acknowledge the steady courage and admirable conduct exhibited by one and all during the bombardment of the past few weeks.

From below the enemy first appeared against you, demanding an unconditional surrender—an enemy who had successfully passed the forts guarding the approaches to New Orleans, and forced the submission of the city itself—an enemy having a naval force of some thirty-five vessels, armed with all the appliances of modern warfare, including the most formidable war steamers of the Federal Navy, besides numerous transports, having a large infantry force. From the other direction soon came the numerous fleet of gunboats that had successively passed Columbus, Island No. 10, Fort Pillow and Memphis. Beleaguered as she has been, Vicksburg and her defenses—the Gibraltar of Mississippi—yet stand intact and uninjured, and we believe they will remain so.

To face undaunted so numerous a foe, to endure unflinchingly so fierce a bombardment, to return boldly and successfully so terrific a fire, has required that cool, determined courage, that cheerful facing of danger, characteristic of the Confederate soldier on every field. Most of their gunboats have been much injured—two sloop-of-war crippled and driven out of the fire, one in a sinking condition, and a mortar boat now lies before you a wreck.

While I am happy in being able to speak thus of all, both officers and soldiers, in the brigade, there occurred individual instances of heroism worthy of imitation, and deserving of special notice. The

two most prominent are Sergeant WM BOYLE, Company I, and Private JOHN MURRAY, Cape's Battery, 1st Louisiana Artillery. The first, acting as gunner during the fierce action of the 28th of June, had his right hand crushed by the fragment of a shell, while stopping the vent of his piece, yet faithfully maintained his position, not raising his wounded hand until all danger of a premature discharge had passed, thus preserving, by his coolness and bravery, the lives of his companions at the gun.

The second, on the morning of the 28th day of June, when a ball got lodged in the rifle gun, and the caannoniers were driven from the parapets by a shower of schrapnel, mounted the parapet ALONE, and worked manfully to ram it home, regardless of the danger to which he was momentarily exposed.

Of others who are entitled to honorable mention for coolness in danger, conspicuous courage under the same heavy fire, and constancy in the performance of duty the following names have been handed in by their commanding officers.

Acting Sergeant JAMES A. HODGINS, 5th Louisiana Artillery.

1st Sergeant JAMES H. LORAIN, 1st Louisiana Artillery.

1st Sergeant JAMES H. LORAIN, 1st Louisiana Artillery.

Sergeant HARRISON, " " "

Sergeant DIONYSIUS, 23d Regiment Louisiana Volunteers.

Corporal ADAMS, 5th Louisiana Artillery.

Acting Corporal SHROPSHIRE, 8th Louisiana Artillery.

Private MCSWEEGAN, " " "

Private MORIARTY, " " "

Private DOWDELL, " " "

Private MCNEAL, " " "

Private BIRM, " " "

The vigilant activity of the officers and men of Starke's Cavalry, led by their Colonel, is also acknowledged. To them belong the distinction of first successfully engaging the enemy.

The officers, one and all of the entire command, including the members of my Staff, and Dr. Blanton, Volunteer Surgeon, deserve and have my warmest thanks.

M. L. SMITH.

Brigadier-General Commanding.

Vicksburg, July 12th, 1862.

*Officially
J. H. Brown
Adjutant*

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